



Schedule 17 stage designs for (clockwise from top left) Little Missenden Headhouse, Water Orton Viaducts and Euston Cavern Shaft Headhouse (HS2 Ltd)

Schedule 17 stage designs

During February and March, the panel continued to meet with the HS2 Ltd supply chain to discuss Schedule 17 stage designs for civil structures on the Phase One route. These included: Water Orton Viaducts, Little Missenden Headhouse, and Euston Cavern Shaft Headhouse.

The panel was impressed with the quality of the work presented for all three schemes and is confident that the designs have the potential to meet the HS2 Design Vision and other project ambitions. The panel welcomes the considerable attention design teams are giving to addressing the challenge of integrating the complex and demanding requirements of high speed rail with the unique characteristics and constraints of their

surroundings. For example, the panel was excited with the integrated place-based designs for Water Orton Viaducts, responding to local context and helping to capture the project's potential to deliver public benefit.

Proposals will continue to be refined post-Schedule 17 stage and the panel made a number of comments to help inform this work. It stressed that aspects such as the quality of materials, consideration to detailing, and the emerging landscape strategies, approved at later stages, will all play a key role in the ultimate success of each structure and for the project as a whole.

It is important that the quality promised at Schedule 17 stage is maintained throughout detailed design and construction and the panel offers its ongoing support during these critical stages.

Design Panel activities February and March 2021

3

Schedule 17 meetings

- Water Orton Viaducts
- Little Missenden Headhouse
- Euston Cavern Shaft Headhouse

2

Phase One station meetings

- Euston Station: southern area masterplan
- Interchange Station: Birmingham International Station Automated People Mover APM stop

4

Workshop meetings

- Phase 2a Lessons Learnt discussion with DfT
- Customer information signage in stations
- Benefits realisation
- Calvert Infrastructure Maintenance Depot

3

Governance meetings

- February and March monthly team meetings attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd
- Governance Advisory Panel meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, deputy chairs and secretariat

Lessons Learnt - Phase 2a

Following a request by the Department for Transport (DfT), the panel met in February for a workshop to discuss headline themes and topics which have emerged during Phase One meetings. This meeting was held in anticipation of Phase 2a receiving Royal Assent in early February.

The workshop recognised the exceptional progression the project has made, and focussed on exploring how these lessons could be translated for Phase 2a. Among them, the panel identified the need for HS2 to quickly adapt post-Royal Assent to a narrative and approach which places public value at the heart of decision making, emphasising the public benefits that can be delivered or enabled. This should include an integrated and place-based approach to design, informed by early and meaningful discussions with communities and stakeholders.

The panel highlighted the importance of HS2 Ltd providing clear leadership on design and demonstrating to the Phase 2a supply chain that it will insist on delivery of the project's ambitions. The panel feels that a Design Champion at board level could be invaluable in achieving this aim - helping the project retain a focus on design quality, alongside programme and cost. As Phase 2a progresses to the next stage of design work, it is essential that 'design' is embedded across the project, with everyone feeling responsible for the delivery of the project's ambitions.



Schedule 17 stage design Small Dean Viaduct, HS2 Ltd



Paul Stewart
*HS2 Phase One: Route and Powers Sponsor, High Speed and Major Rail Projects Group
Department for Transport*

People's stories

Paul is the route-wide sponsor for Phase One of HS2 in the Department for Transport, covering the HS2 Ltd delivery of the two West Midlands stations and route-wide challenges. He is involved in a wide range of topics and activities, such as environmental mitigation, engagement with local authorities and Members of Parliament, Phase One Act powers and planning consent regimes, the interfaces with other projects, and sponsorship of the IDP at departmental level.

"I joined the HS2 sponsorship team and the Department for Transport as I wanted to be involved in a project that would create a lasting and positive legacy for the UK. Good design forms a hugely important part of that - the impact of design thinking now will remain long after the policy papers and approval letters have been forgotten about. Engaging with the Design Panel is one of the more refreshing aspects of my role, and I enjoy witnessing the iteration and development of key design elements through its involvement."

Design Panel refresh

In April, Frame Projects, secretariat to the HS2 Independent Design Panel, will begin advertising for new panel members. This is part of a refresh of the panel which aims to retain the knowledge the panel has developed to date, as well as recruit new panel members to help strengthen its mix of skills, introduce fresh perspectives, and improve the panel's diversity. For a recruitment pack and application form please email: HS2@frame-projects.co.uk.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**